Protest by Export Promotion Council for handicrafts over hike in bank service charges

990. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Promotion Council for handicrafts has strongly protested against the recent increase in bank service charges announced by the public sector banks;

(b) if so, what was the rise in bank service charges announced; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Public sector banks have revised their service charges with effect from 1-7-90 taking into account the cost of inputs in relation to the service rendered by them. The charges have been increased in respect of certain services such as processing of applications for advances exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs, remittances of drafts/Mail Transfers/Telegraphic Transfers beyond Rs. 2500/-, MICR cheque books (excluding savings bank accounts of individuals), issue of duplicate statements of accounts and duplicate pass books, inland guarantees, stop payment instructions, standing instructions, etc. Some representations have been received by Government against the above increase. Since the revisions are related to cost inputs of banks in relation to their services, no immediate re-examination is contemplated.

Assocham's dmeand for uniformity on leives & taxes on different times

991. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM, while welcoming Government's notification making it obligatory to mark the maximum retail prices including sales tax and other taxes on all packed items, had demanded uniformity in levies and taxes, so as to ensure uniform rates of different items throughout the country; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Implications of the proposal made by ASSOCHAM are being studied in consultation with the Collectors of Central Excise, It will take time.

Closure of barnches of Nationalised banks operating in J & K State

992. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the nationalised banks in Jammu and Kashmir except Jammu and Kashmir Bank are virtually closed as the staff members, except class IV employees who are Kashmiris, have migrated from the Valley;

(b) if so, what arrangements Government have made for the customers who maintain accounts in these banks; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government for the safety and security of these bank employees, who were forced to leave their duties, so that they return back to join their duties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir. In the State of Jammu & Kashmir, most of the branches of public sector banks are functioning except some branches in the Kashmir Valley. In the Kashmir Valley, 52 branches of public sector banks were functioning in a limited manner during the week ended on 4.8.90, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(b) RBI has issued instructions to Bank to ensure that their branches in